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Department of Economics

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Current employment

Assistant Professor CT, Department of Economics, *University of Colorado Denver & International College Beijing*, 2015–present

Areas of specialization

Labor economics, Economics of Migration, Economics of Education, Applied Econometrics and Microeconomics

Previous academic employment

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, *University of Colorado Denver*, 2012–2015

Instructor, Department of Economics, *University of California Santa Barbara*, 2012

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, *University of California Santa Barbara*, 2007–2012

Education

Ph.D., Economics

University of California Santa Barbara, 2012

M.A., Economics

University of California Santa Barbara, 2007

B.A., Economics (with High Honors)

University of California Davis, 2006

B.A., Political Science (with Honors)

University of California Davis, 2006

Academic publications

- Boffy-Ramirez, Ernest and Soojae Moon. 2018. “The Role of China’s Household Registration System in the Urban-Rural Income Differential”, *China Economic Journal*, 11:2
- Boffy-Ramirez, Ernest. 2017. “The Heterogeneous impacts of business cycles on educational attainment”, *Education Economics*, 25:6
- Bean, Hamilton, and Ernest Boffy-Ramirez. 2017. “Comparing Chinese undergraduate students’ level of intercultural communication competence: does studying in the USA make a difference?” *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 47:7
- Boffy-Ramirez, Ernest. 2013. “Minimum wages, earnings, and migration”, *IZA Institute of Labor Economics Journal of Migration*, 2:17

Working papers

“The short-run effect of minimum wages on employment & labor market participation: Evidence from individual-level longitudinal data”

Abstract: Neumark, Salas, and Wascher (2014) succinctly summarize the empirical challenges researchers of the minimum wage face, "the identification of minimum wage effects requires both a sufficiently sharp focus on potentially affected workers and the construction of a valid counterfactual control group for what would have happened absent increases in the minimum wage". The difficulty of addressing these two challenges is evident in the variety of empirical approaches seen the literature. In this paper, I address the latter of the issues in a manner new to the minimum wage literature by being the only study to date that takes advantage of individual-level longitudinal data to observe the impacts of minimum wage changes on employment and labor force participation. Using within-individual variation, I control for heterogeneity that may determine employment and labor force participation—including differential exposure to economic shocks correlated with minimum wage increases, selective sample attrition, and selective migration across state borders. The very short-run impacts of the minimum wage are assessed using monthly data, instead of yearly or quarterly data, which allows for the analysis of contemporaneous minimum wage effects. There is no evidence of increases in unemployment immediately following a minimum wage increase. In addition, it does not appear that employers are substituting full-time workers with part-time workers. That said, there is robust evidence that immediately following a minimum wage increase, individuals leave the labor force.

Research in progress

“Air pollution and productivity at the extensive and intensive margins: Evidence from a natural experiment in South Korea”

“Measuring the return to education amongst the least educated immigrants in the U.S.”

Teaching

- Introduction to Econometrics (*University of Colorado Denver*)
- Statistics with Computer Applications (*University of Colorado Denver & International College Beijing*)
- Introduction to Mathematical Economics (*International College Beijing*)
- Labor Economics (*University of Colorado Denver & International College Beijing*)
- Game Theory with Economic Applications (*University of California Santa Barbara, University of Colorado Denver, & International College Beijing*)
- Special Topics in Applied Economics seminar (*International College Beijing*)

Academic recognition

International College Beijing Professional Development grant, 2018

International College Beijing Professional Development grant, 2015

Western Economic Association International Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop award recipient, 2011

Doctoral Scholar’s Central Fellowship recipient, *University of California Santa Barbara*, 2006–2011

Recognition of High Honors for thesis titled “The industrialization of Mexico’s Northern border and laborer health”, *University of California Davis*, 2006

Conference participation

Western Economic Association International, 2014, 2015, 2016

Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession session at Western Economic Association International, 2016

Western Economic Association International Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, 2011

All-UC Labor Conference, 2009, 2010

Southern California Conference for Applied Microeconomics, 2010

Journal referee service

Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters, Journal of Race and Policy, Journal of International Migration and Integration, Journal of Chinese Political Science, Journal of Sports Analytics, Southern Economic Journal, IZA World of Labor, International Migration Review, Business and Economics Letters, University of California Santa Barbara's Occasional Environmental Workshop

Professional affiliations & memberships

IZA Institute for Labor Economics research affiliate

Western Economic Association member

American Economic Association member